



# **CITY COUNCIL**

## **CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **COUNCILMEMBER DJOU: STOP TALKING, TIME TO SET A TARGET FOR COMPREHENSIVE CURBSIDE RECYCLING**

Yesterday, the City Council's Planning and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee advanced resolutions introduced by Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, East Honolulu) urging the legislature to transfer responsibility of the bottle bill from the state to the counties. This afternoon, the City Council's Public Works Committee will hear a bill introduced by Councilmember Djou to set January 1, 2007, as a target date for initiating comprehensive curbside recycling.

"It's time we stop talking and start doing something significant with curbside recycling. The State and City governments must get over their turf battles and work together to get the job done. Currently, the bottle bill is administered by the state government and is flush with cash, but the state does not administer household waste services. The City oversees household waste management but, according to Mayor Hannemann, the City lacks sufficient funds to undertake a comprehensive curbside recycling program in part because of the bottle bill. This is stupid intra-government fighting that rightly drives the public nuts and thwarts recycling. We've had more than enough talk, we now need cooperation of the City and State governments to make comprehensive curbside recycling happen," stated Councilmember Djou.

"The public also needs to know a set date when comprehensive curbside recycling of paper, plastic and glass in addition to green waste will happen. Until we set a clear date for undertaking this project, it will be all too easy for the government to let one deadline after another slip in instituting comprehensive curbside recycling," stated Councilmember Djou.

The resolutions introduced by Councilmember Djou ask the State Legislature to turn over the administration and funding of the bottle bill to the counties to allow the municipal governments to integrate a comprehensive curbside recycling program with the bottle bill. (See Resolutions 05-368, 05-387, and 05-389.) Councilmember Djou is also calling for the administration to commit to a January 1, 2007, start date for a comprehensive recycling program. (See Bill 72 (2005).)

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